

American Rescue Dog Association

Agility Assessment – Setup Instructions and Criteria

Purpose

The purpose of the Agility Assessment is to ensure that the canine is able to safely negotiate potential abnormal/adverse conditions that may be encountered in either a wilderness or urban environment. The canine should be able to approach such conditions in a calm and controlled manner without physical aid from its handler.

Objectives

In order to safely search in wilderness and/or urban environments, the canine must have specific skills to overcome some of its natural instincts.

Criteria

- All agility elements must be completed on the same day.
- A failure of more than one element will require that the team re-take the entire evaluation. If the team fails only one element, that element may be retested within one month. If the element is failed a second time the entire evaluation must be retaken.

Assessment Procedures

- During the agility evaluation the handler may not have any type of reward item (e.g., food, toy, etc.) on their person.
- No prong, choke, electronic collars, head halters, or harnesses are permitted during the obedience test – flat collars are permitted.
- The canine will work without a leash on all elements with the exception of the open stairs.
- The assessor will designate a clear start and end point for each element.
- The canine must traverse each element from start to finish under the direction and control of the handler.
- The handler may not teach the obstacle during the assessment.
- No more than three attempts on any agility element will be allowed. If the canine does not complete the element after three attempts it will fail that element.

Course Layout

It is recommended that the agility elements are all located within close proximity (walking distance). While the elements may be constructed for the purpose of the assessment, the assessor may also use obstacles that exist in the environment (e.g., an unsteady wood pile, a bench in a park, etc.).

Agility Elements

1. **Tunnel** – A dark, narrow tunnel or passageway, at least 12 feet in length. The canine should not be able to see through the tunnel to the end. Partial covering of the exit or an angle is required. The canine should fit into the space without crawling.
2. **Unpleasant Surface (Rough)** – A rough surface such as a chain link fence or grate that is not directly on the ground. The surface should be at least 6 feet long and 2 feet wide and at least 1 foot and no more than 4 feet off of the ground.
3. **Unpleasant Surface (Slick/Slippery)** – A slick, slippery surface such as tile, polished flooring, or ice. The surface should be at least 6 feet long and 2 feet wide.
4. **Plank** – A stable plank 10 to 12 inches wide, at least 8 feet long, which is at least 2 feet and no more than 4 feet off the ground.
5. **Unstable Surface** – The surface can be a mix of obstacles but must wobble under the canine when walked on. The surface will be no more than 3 feet off the ground.
6. **Open Stairs** – A flight of at least 10 open stairs such as those found on a wooden deck, fire escape, etc. The canine must climb up and down the stairs. The canine can be on or off-lead and the handler can walk with the canine but may not precede the canine.



American Rescue Dog Association Agility Assessment

ARDA Unit: _____

Date: _____ Assessor: _____

Handler: _____ Dog: _____

	Pass	Fail	Comments
1. Tunnel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Unpleasant Surface (Rough)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Unpleasant Surface (Slick/Slippery)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Plank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Unstable Surface	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Open Stairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Additional Comments

Assessor Signature: _____